

From the Editor

WE profile some of the more fascinating capabilities of the Army this month with a series of articles on the units and schools that make up the Army Special Operations Command. From special forces soldiers to the 75th Ranger Regiment and 160th Special Operation Aviation Regt., special-operations troops are at work worldwide to provide the nation's commanders in chief the ability to do the seemingly impossible.

Also in this issue are articles on another little-known but important Army program, the international student program at the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

On a personal note, the Army will say farewell this month to MG Gil Meyer, the chief of public affairs. For four years he adeptly managed media and public communications for the Army as it struggled with sex scandals and many other contentious issues. That the Army still enjoys the trust and confidence of the American people after these potentially ruinous controversies is in no small way due to his honest and straightforward representation of the Army to the public.

Ray McWhittier

Missed One?

GREAT article on the tradition of the various parts of the military uniform in the July **Soldiers**. I'm constantly asked questions by my JROTC students about where and why the different accessories came from. But did you leave out the nameplate/nametag? Seems to me it was present in 1960 when I was a senior ROTC cadet, but I don't know about earlier uniforms.

MAJ Ronald Grandel (Ret.)
Xavier High School JROTC
New York, N.Y.

GLAD you found "Uniform Traditions" useful. We asked Walter H. Bradford, museum curator at the U.S. Army Center of Military History, who contributed the article, to respond:

"Soldiers have worn, by local order, some form of nameplate or nametape since World War II. But it was not until 1959 that the Army standardized the black plastic nameplate and, in 1969, that the nametape was changed to the subdued OG-107 for wear in the continental United States."

Focus on West Point

WHAT a wonderful surprise to receive a call from friends to tell us our son's picture is part of the center section advertisement for West Point that appeared in the August issue of **Soldiers**. Is there a possibility that we could get a copy of the picture before it is stapled together in the magazine? We would like to have it framed and matted for a wonderful family heirloom.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cumiskey
Saunderstown, R.I.

THANKS for your interest in **Soldiers**. Unfortunately we do

A Hot Issue

ONE hell of an insert! Excellent! Kudos to whomever was responsible for Hot Topics in the August issue of **Soldiers**. Thanks for putting together an exceptional Family Advocacy Program presentation. You've done us in the field a great service.

Now, if service members and their dependents will just take time to read and digest the important messages there. Where and how can I get more copies?

Jerry Pye
Family Advocacy Program Manager
Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.

I AM writing in response to having just completed your Summer 2000 edition of Hot Topics that was included in the August issue of **Soldiers** Magazine. Our Family Advocacy program received an electronic copy from USAREUR. We found this to be a useful, informative resource. With Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October we were hoping that we could share this supplement in our commander briefings.

Michelle Walker-Alexander
Army Community Service-Family Advocacy Program
Hanau, Germany

THE demand for the August edition of Hot Topics on Countering Family Violence has verified that issue's popularity and exhausted our stock of extra copies. An electronic version of the issue is available at the **Soldiers Online** website, which can be found at www.dtic.mil/soldiers. Click on "Hot Topics" to download the Acrobat .pdf files.

not have any unbound centerspread pages from the August issue; however, we have referred your request to our sources at the admissions and public affairs offices at West Point. Perhaps one of those offices can help you.

THE August issue of **Soldiers** carried a well-written article on the USMA Preparatory School at Fort Monmouth, N.J.; however, I found the accompanying photo most alarming. The students shown on page 15 are training with outdated protective

masks, without protective chemical suits and some appear to have the barrels of their rifles pointing at other students. The fact that these young people are attending such a course is commendable. Still, they should be trained to the same standards as are the soldiers they will lead.

SFC Charles R. Ryan Jr.
Fort Riley, Kan.

Service Dogs

YOUR August article "Pets Helping Patients" was right on



target. There are many people in the Veterinary Corps who would be interested in participating in these programs. Do you have any points of contact for Army-sponsored service dog programs? I am interested in programs in the Kansas City area. Fort Leavenworth is the closest active duty post.

I am the unit administrator and a member of the 445th Medical Detachment in the Kansas City area. I would like to set up some training, public relations and volunteer opportunities for our veterinary unit. Any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Loura L. Pierce
via e-mail

THE author, Heike Hasenauer, recommends that you contact COL Lynn Anderson, commander of the Army's Veterinary Command at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He has been largely responsible for instituting Army pet programs and is familiar with similar civilian programs. He can be reached at (210) 221-6522 or (DSN) 624-6522. Another source is MAJ James Cobb, director of the Service Dog Training Center at Fort Knox, Ky. He can be reached at (502) 624-7622.

Extra Posters

RECENTLY I saw a poster that I think came from your magazine. One side has a map and information about who fought in the Korean War; the other side, which indicates it was provided by the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Committee, shows a timeline on the Korean War. Can I get a copy of this poster from you? I am developing a Korean War 50th Anniversary Discovery Box for our museum's Hands-on Gallery at the Alabama Department of

Archives and History. I would like to add this special poster to our collection.

Leona E. Stemple
Montgomery, Ala.

YOUR posters have been mailed. We still have many uniform posters from this year's almanac and a limited number of the Korean War posters.

Getting Soldiers

What do I need to do to get **Soldiers** distributed to my unit?

CPT Karin Busch
via e-mail

IF getting **Soldiers** is a problem, make sure your servicing Publications Distribution Control person has your unit's requirements listed with the St. Louis Publications Distribution Operations Facility. **Soldiers** is printed on the basis of one copy for each six readers, but units must requisition the appropriate number through the PDC system. The U.S. Army Publishing Agency handles that process through its website. To get there, go to **Soldiers Online** and click on "Ordering

Soldiers. Then click on "U.S. Army Publishing Agency." Your PDC person will need your PDO account number in order to access and operate the USAPA website (www.usapa.army.mil) ordering page. Once you are on the USAPA home page, click on Army Publications Ordering and Subscription System, then click on Publications Ordering System, then click Subscription Add/Change/Delete. Follow the instructions. Enter the IDN (050007) for **Soldiers** in the block provided. Enter the quantity you wish to receive. Allow 4 to 8 weeks for the subscription change to occur.

Medal Changes?

THE poster included with the January almanac issue showing proper wear of patches, badges and ribbons shows a bronze, silver and gold hourglass appurtenance for additional awards of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. I can only find a reference to the bronze hourglass in AR 600-8-22. This information is repeated in AR 670-1. Has there been an


interim change that I missed?

MSG Henry Jarkowski
Fort Dix, N.J.

MSG K.L. Messman, HQDA Uniform Policy proponent, replies:

"There has been a change to the information concerning the AFRM in the Awards regulation. PERSCOM Message TAPC-PDA, 231630Z Aug. 96, was published after AR 600-8-22. Therefore, there is no mention of the gold or silver hourglass in the regulation. This message describes the AFRM, the "M" Device, and wear of the 10-Year Device (or hourglass) on the AFRM. You can access this message from the website www-perscom.army.mil/tagd/awards/30.htm."

Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**, or e-mail: soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.

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